
In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A ~~The process for fabricating which comprises the steps of~~ claim 21 wherein said steps of at least partially inserting said polymeric tube and post-processing comprise:
 - (a) inserting a length of a said polymeric tube having a polymeric tube external diameter at least partially into a length of a said metallic tube having a metallic tube internal and external diameter, said metallic tube internal diameter being larger than said polymeric tube external diameter; and
 - (b) reducing an external and internal diameter of said metallic tube until said internal diameter of said metallic tube is essentially equal to said external diameter of said polymeric tube.
2. (withdrawn) The process of claim 1 wherein said step of reducing is through the application of an inwardly compressive circumferential force about said metallic tube.
3. (withdrawn) The process of claim 1 which further comprises the step of extruding said polymeric tube prior to the step of inserting.
4. (withdrawn) The process of claim 3 which further comprises the step of cutting said polymeric tube to said length after said step of extruding.
5. (withdrawn) The process of claim 4 wherein said step of extruding comprises a step of coextruding.
6. (withdrawn) The process of claim 1 wherein said step of inserting comprises fully inserting said length of said polymeric tube into said length of said metallic tube.
7. (amended) A ~~The process for fabricating which comprises the steps of~~ claim 22 wherein said steps of at least partially inserting said polymeric tube and post-processing further comprise :
 - (a) reducing an outer diameter of said at least a partially crosslinked polymeric tube from a first outer diameter to a smaller second outer diameter;
 - (b) inserting a length of said at least a partially crosslinked polymeric tube ~~having a polymeric tube~~ at least partially into a length of a said metallic tube having a metallic tube internal and external diameter, said metallic tube internal diameter being larger than said polymeric tube second outer

diameter and approximately equal to said first outer diameter of said at least partially crosslinked polymeric tube; and

(c) heating said tubes so that said partially crosslinked polymeric tube expands in diameter to approximate said first outer diameter.

8. (original) The process of claim 7 wherein said at least partially crosslinked polymeric tube is at least 50% crosslinked.
9. (original) The process of claim 8 wherein said at least partially crosslinked polymeric tube is at least 60% crosslinked.
10. (original) The process of claim 9 wherein said at least partially crosslinked polymeric tube is polyethylene.
11. (original) The process of claim 10 wherein said polyethylene is fully crosslinked.
12. (original) The process of claim 7 which further comprises the step of extruding said polymeric tube prior to the step of reducing.
13. (original) The process of claim 12 which further comprises the step of cutting said polymeric tube to said length after said step of extruding.
14. (original) The process of claim 12 wherein said step of extruding comprises a step of coextruding.
15. (original) The process of claim 7 wherein said step of inserting comprises fully inserting said length of said polymeric tube into said length of said metallic tube.
16. (amended) A ~~The process for fabricating which comprises the steps of~~ claim 21 wherein said steps of at least partially inserting said polymeric tube and post-processing further comprise:
 - (a) inserting a length of a said polymeric tube having a polymeric tube external diameter at least partially into a length of a said metallic tube having a metallic tube internal and external diameter, said metallic tube internal diameter being larger than said polymeric tube external diameter; and
 - (b) sealing one end of said polymeric tube;
 - (c) heating said tubes to a temperature at which the polymeric tube becomes processable; and
 - (d) pressurizing said polymeric tube with a sufficient degree of pressure to effect radial expansion of said polymeric tube.

17. (original) The process of claim 16 which further comprises the step of extruding said polymeric tube prior to the step of inserting.
18. (original) The process of claim 17 which further comprises the step of cutting said polymeric tube to said length after said step of extruding.
19. (original) The process of claim 18 wherein said step of extruding comprises a step of coextruding.
20. (original) The process of claim 16 wherein said step of inserting comprises fully inserting said length of said polymeric tube into said length of said metallic tube.
21. (new) A process for fabricating a polymeric tube within a metallic tube comprising the steps of:
 - (a) at least partially inserting said polymeric tube into said metallic tube to form a metallic-encased polymeric tube;
 - (b) post-processing said metallic-encased polymeric tube to effect contacting engagement between at least a portion of an interior surface of said metallic tube and at least a portion of an exterior surface of said polymeric tube;
 - (c) at least partially inserting one end of a connecting means into one end of at least one of said inner polymeric tubes with contacting engagement with a portion of an interior surface of said polymeric tube; and
 - (d) inserting a sealing means about a portion of an exterior surface of said metallic tube which is radially above at least a portion of said at least partially inserted connecting means for joining the connecting means to said inner polymeric tube in a leak-proof manner by inward circumferential pressure.
22. (new) The process of claim 21 wherein said polymeric tube is at least a partially crosslinked polymeric tube.